UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

AUG 2 7 2005

MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR, & BRUNDIDGE, P.C. 1800 DIAGONAL ROAD SUITE 370 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314.

In re Application of:

YASUYUKI KATAKURA ET AL

Serial No.: 10/774,534 Filed: 10 February 2004

Title: STORAGE A

STORAGE APPARATUS AND SHIELDING

METHOD FOR STORAGE APPARATUS

DECISION ON PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL UNDER 37

C.F.R. § 1.102(d)

This is a decision on the petition filed on April 19, 2005, to make the above-identified application special under the accelerated examination procedure set forth in MPEP § 708.02(VIII) in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.102(d).

The petition to make the application special is **GRANTED**.

In support of the petition, petition provides: a) the applicable petition fee, b) a statement that a pre-examination search was made, including the search areas; c) a statement that all claims are directed towards a single invention, and an intent to elect without traverse should election be required; d) a copy of each of the references deemed most closely related to the claimed subject matter; and e) a detailed discussion of each of a number of references submitted as being pertinent to patentability, pointing out how the claimed subject matter is distinguishable over those references.

For accelerated examination under MPEP § 708.02(VIII) in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.102(d), a petition with the following showing is required: a) a petition fee; b) all claims are directed to a single invention; c) a statement that a pre-examination search was made, including the search areas; d) a copy of each of the (non-US) references deemed most closely related to the claimed subject matter; and e) a detailed discussion of the references pointing out with the particularity required by 37 CFR 1.111 (b) and (c), how the claimed subject matter is distinguishable over the references.

The requirements of MPEP § 708.02(VIII)(a) – (e) are considered to have been met.

For the above-mentioned reasons, the petition is granted. The application will be advanced out of turn for examination, and will continue to be treated as special throughout the entire prosecution in the Office according to the procedure set forth in MPEP § 708.02(VIII).

The delay in considering the petition and issuance of this decision is regretted.

Any inquiry regarding this decision should be directed to Hien H. Phan, Special Program Examiner, at (571) 272-1606.

Hien H. Phan Special Program Examiner Technology Center 2800 - Semiconductors, Electrical & Optical Systems & Components